

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
NISHIDA et al.

Confirmation No. 5136
Atty Docket. No. 46244

Application No. 10/534,104
Appln. Filed: May 6, 2005

Group Art Unit: 1794
Examiner: Stulii, Vera

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING FERMENTED BEVERAGES

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February 8, 2010

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The applicants hereby submit the attached PTO Form 1449 and copies of documents listed thereon which are disclosed in the attached Japanese Patent Office (JPO) Official Action which issued on November 16, 2009, in the Japanese counterpart application of the subject application. Additionally, I hereby certify that each enclosed document listed on the herewith Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months ago by the attached JPO Official Action, dated November 16, 2009. Please refer to the Action for information on each document. Of the three cited documents, two are previously of record in this application. The third document, Japanese Patent Public Disclosure No. Hei 10-225287 is now submitted together with an English Abstract.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to

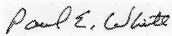
that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

No fee is believed to be required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0687 under the above Attorney Docket Number.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited along with an early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER, PLLC


By _____
Paul E. White, Jr.
Reg. No. 32,011
Tel. No.: (202) 261-1050
Fax No.: (202) 887-0336

2000 M Street, N.W.
Seventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036-3307
(202) 261-1000